# Residential Burglary Prevention Tips

- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house (even for a short time) or go to bed.
- Install special locks or even a wooden dowel or a track blocker to prevent vulnerable sliding glass doors from opening.
- Ensure all windows are locked and secured, including second-story



Thumbscrew Sliding Window Lock

windows and windows that you believe are too small to allow intruder entry.

- Find creative hiding places in your home for expensive items such as jewelry. Common storage or hiding places for valuables to avoid include:
  - Inside desk/file cabinets
  - Under mattresses
  - In jewelry boxes
  - In drawers
- Do not answer your door to a stranger: install a peep hole or talk through the door to unknown persons.

If you come home to find an unexplained open/broken window or door, do not enter the residence because the perpetrator may still be inside. Instead immediately contact:

**Dublin Police Services** 

9-1-1

# did you know?

You can request a Dublin police officer to regularly check your house while you're on vacation.

A completed "Vacation House Check" form provides officers with the necessary information to determine if anything looks out of the ordinary when they drive by your house.

Come by Dublin Police Services to fill out a "Vacation House Check" form or call to have one mailed to you.

Dublin Police Services—Business Office 100 Civic Plaza Monday - Friday, 8am to 5pm (925) 833-6670

A good neighbor is still one of the best residential burglary prevention tools available.

Call (925) 833-6610 to start a

Neighborhood Watch group!

a publication by Neighborhood Resources



100 Civic Plaza Dublin, CA 94568 (925) 833-6610



# PROTECT YOUR HOME AGAINST BURGLARY

# ITY OF DUBLIN





COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

# **Keep the Burglar Out!**

Residents often seek various strategies to secure their homes and deter burglars. One approach is to incorporate "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" commonly known as CPTED, (pronounced "septed") when securing their residences. CPTED relies on the following principles to reduce opportunities for crime:

## Natural Surveillance

Natural Surveillance maximizes natural visibility and observation of open spaces or through windows. Installing lights in vulnerable areas, trimming landscaping near windows, selecting light fabric or materials to drape windows, and choosing wrought iron fences are ways of optimizing natural surveillance.

**Lights:** Install lights in front, back and by garages and replace broken light bulbs promptly. Motion detector lights are an alternative to leaving lights on all night. Interior-timed lighting devices should be utilized when not at home.  $\square$ 

**Garage:** Secure garage doors at all times, especially if there is a connecting door to the house. Do not leave open garages unattended. Lock away tools and ladders so that a thief cannot use them to burglarize your home. 

##

Signs: Post alarm company signs, "No Soliciting" signs, "Beware of Dog" signs, and Neighborhood Watch signs. Even when no one's home, signs tell burglars and trespassers to think twice when they approach your door.

**Doors:** Upgrade to solid core wood doors with peepholes; frames that cannot be spread apart with a pry bar are recommended. ##

## Maintenance & Territorial Reinforcement O

Regular maintenance indicates pride of ownership and a lack of tolerance for unwanted behavior. When properties in a neighborhood are well-maintained, there is a perception of care and responsibility in the community. Maintenance sends the message that the owner of an area is claiming a territory, which makes offenders feel uncomfortable.

### Access Control ##

Restrict access by the common burglar and convey a sense of ownership by using hedges, fences, and gates to delineate a space as private/ semi-private. Access control includes guiding legitimate users safely through the environment with design features such as flood lights, paved walkways, and light paint color.

Windows: Encourage natural surveillance through windows by maintaining adjacent trees and bushes. Although glass is vulnerable to forcible entry, burglars are reluctant to break windows because of the noise and because windows are often visible from the street and other residences.

**House Numbers:** Ensure that house numbers are visible from the street. Numbers should be block style and in a color that contrasts with the background. ###

**Shrubs:** Keep shrubs low enough so they do not block possible points of entry or conceal a potential attacker. The recommended maximum height is 42".  $\square$   $\lozenge$  ##

**Fence:** Use the shortest fence appropriate for the environment, in a design that facilitates your observation of the area. A gated fence makes it even clearer that the space is being controlled. □ ○ ##

**Locks:** Use dead bolt locks that extend at least 1" into your door frame. Be sure to use a high security strike plate with 3" screws. ##

**Spare Keys:** Leave a spare key at work or with a nearby friend or trusted neighbor. Never leave a spare key in a hiding place outside your home — burglars know all the hiding places. ##